

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawing include changes to FIG. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet that included FIG. 2.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been amended. Claims 18-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 remain for further consideration. No new matter has been added.

The objections and rejections shall be taken up in the order presented in the Official Action.

1. The drawings currently stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Specifically, the Official Action contends that “*the resistance is the intrinsic resistance of the substrate between the base and a contact-doping zone metallicity connected to the collector or emitter as recited in claim 2 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)*” (Official Action, pg. 2).

It is respectfully submitted that the feature of claim 2, which has been amended slightly herein, is illustrated in the drawings; for example in FIG. 4. There illustrated is the substrate 13, which inherently has an intrinsic resistance. This intrinsic resistance is defined and illustrated as being located between the transistor base regions 20, 21 and 22 and the two outer contact doping zones 14 and 19 that are metallicity connected to the four emitter doping regions 15-18 of the transistor. Somewhat similar configurations are illustrated in FIGS. 6-9. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be removed.

2. In the counterpart European patent application, the European Search Report has not yet issued. A parallel German patent has been granted without any search report or any documents having been cited.

3. The title of the invention is objected to for allegedly not being descriptive.

The title has been amended.

4. Claims 1-17 currently stand rejected for allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter deemed to be the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 allegedly contains indefinite language.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the alleged indefinite language.

5. Claim 1 currently stands rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in Applicant Prior Art (hereinafter “APA”) and U.S. Patent. 5,949,122 to Scaccianoce (hereinafter “Scaccianoce”). Claims 2-5 currently stand rejected for allegedly being obvious in view of the combined subject matter disclosed in APA, Scaccianoce and U.S. Patent 6,791,122 to Avery (hereinafter “Avery”).

Claim 1

Amended claim 1 recites an integrated circuit that includes, *inter alia*:

“a coupling circuit connected to a first one of the supply voltages, where the coupling circuit includes at least one transistor having a base of the first conductivity type, a collector, and an emitter or a second conductivity type, where the base is connected through a resistance to the first one of the supply voltages and the collector and the emitter are connected directly to the first one of supply voltages, and where the emitter and collector each comprise corresponding doping zones of the second conductivity type arranged symmetrically and connected through a surface metallization to the first one of the supply voltages.” (cl. 1, emphasis added).

Claim 1 as filed has been amended to include the feature of claim 3. Claim 3 has been amended to now depend from new claim 18.

The Official Action contends that with respect to former claim 3, “*Scaccianoce discloses the collector and emitter of the transistor T are symmetrical. (Note fig. 1 of Scaccianoce).*” (Official Action, pg. 5). However, a fair and proper reading of FIG. 1 of Scaccianoce merely reveals a schematic diagram illustration of a transistor circuit (col. 3, line 59; col. 4, lines 14-15), and as such, it fails to demonstrate a physical feature of a transistor, such as the symmetry of its constituent components (e.g., the emitter and collector). Given that fact, such a circuit diagram also fails to disclose the physical feature recited in amended claim 1 and emphasized above, “*where the emitter and collector each comprise corresponding doping zones of the second conductivity type arranged symmetrically and connected through a surface metallization to the first one of the supply voltages.*” Indeed, there is no teaching in Scaccianoce that the doping zones comprising the emitter and collector are arranged symmetrically. As a result, it is submitted that the alleged combination of Applicant Prior Art (“APA”) and Scaccianoce fails to meet the features of amended claim 1. Thus, the alleged combination cannot render amended claim 1 obvious thereover.

However, assuming for the moment that the APA and Scaccianoce could be properly combined, without admitting as much, such a combination still fails to render amended claim 1 obvious thereover as the combination fails to disclose the feature of amended claim 1 of “*where the emitter and collector each comprise corresponding doping zones of the second conductivity type arranged symmetrically.*”

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the obviousness rejection of amended claim 1 is moot and should be removed, and that amended claim 1 is allowable and should be passed to issuance.

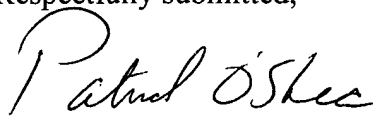
Claims 18-20 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that claims 18-20 are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

6. The indication that claims 6-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims is noted and appreciated.

For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick O'Shea". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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